

**Jewett City Department of Public Utilities
Board of Commissioners
Meeting Minutes
September 13, 2023**

The regular meeting of the Board of Public Utilities Commissioners was held in the office of the DPU on Wednesday, September 13, 2023, at 4:30 pm.

Chairman Demicco stated that he would like to have a moment of silence for the passing of Comm. Richard Throwe.

Chairman Demicco called the meeting to order with Comm. Comfort present. With two Commissioners present, a quorum was met. Also, in attendance was Laurie Sorder, Borough of Jewett City Burgess; Mike LaLima, GWPCA; Erik Christensen, Town of Griswold Finance; Marshall Gaston and Virgil Lloyd from Fuss and O'Neill, and Kenneth Sullivan, Director of Utilities.

AGENDA #2 APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING HELD OF AUGUST 9, 2023:

Comm. Comfort made the motion to approve the regular meeting minutes held on August 9, 2023 as written and presented prior to the meeting. The motion was seconded with both in favor.

AGENDA #3 READING OF COMMUNICATIONS:

Director Sullivan stated that the items below were enclosed for the commissioner's information:

- Talcott Resolution's Quarterly Statement regarding our pension plan,
- Thank you note from Carol Throwe,
- A notice from PUMIC regarding the annual meeting being held September 28, 2023. Director Sullivan informed the board that he had filled out the Proxy info on behalf of the Commissioner's because non-attendance, and
- A letter from NISC, our billing software company, regarding an increase in billing costs.

AGENDA #4 REPORTS OF OTHER COMMISSIONERS:

Chairman Demicco stated that he attended the Borough of Jewett City monthly meeting and CMEEC meetings in the last month.

AGENDA #5 DISCUSS AND TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION ON ELECTRIC POLICY:

Director Sullivan reviewed the change to the policy entitled "Rebates on Mini-Split/Multi-Split Heat Pump". After some discussion, Chairman Demicco made the motion to accept the revised policy entitled "Rebates on Mini-Split/Multi-Split Heat Pump" as written and presented. The motion was seconded with both in favor.

AGENDA #6 SEWER UPDATE:

Director Sullivan stated to the Fuss and O'Neill men and Mr. Christensen that he had questions on the video he watched regarding the Route 201 private sewer line. He stated that while watching it he saw a lateral in the pipe that showed water gushing into the pipe, flowing water to our system. He stated that his guess is groundwater is causing this flow and he asked if they would like to see the video that was setup in his office, at which they said that they would. After some discussion on the size of the pipes, joints with moisture, and life span of these private line pipes, they took a few minutes to go to Director Sullivan's office.





It was agreed by the Commissioner's to pause the meeting for a few minutes for Director Sullivan and Fuss and O'Neill to view the video

After their return, Fuss and O'Neill stated that they agreed there appeared to be ground water with a tremendous flow coming into the pipe. Director Sullivan stated that he has concerns that this is groundwater coming into this private pipe and it needs to be resolved before he can approve taking over this line.

Director Sullivan also stated that an MOU with the Town of Griswold would be considered but the Waste Water Treatment Plant must be helped with financing before we can add on any new and/or additional sewer lines.

Mike LaLima, GWPCA, stated that the GWPCA has no ownership in the JCDPU nor has any funds, but does make decisions on the Griswold side of properties. He questioned who would make repairs on the sewer lines outside the Borough of Jewett City.

Director Sullivan stated that it would probably be four to five years before the JCDPU would be able to take over the sewer lines on Route 201 and Route 138.

After thanking the Board, Fuss and O'Neill and Eric Christensen took their leave at 5:10 pm.

After some discussion and agreeing that having them at this meeting was very beneficial, Mike LaLima took his leave at 5:25 pm.

Chairman Demicco asked for an update on securing funding for the waste water plant. Director Sullivan informed him that there were two different projects. The floodwall is not able to be funded because there are no funds available, the Department of Housing has no money available. The issue of the CWF-443C loan has been brought up to Brian Lanoue, our state representative, to ask for his input on a possible bond in the state budget. He stated that our funds will pay for the loan for about six to eight months before possible financial failure. He stated that if we don't receive funding there's a possibility of a user rate increase of about 50%, which would be a disaster. Burgess Sorder mentioned that she would speak with Jen Gauthier in person, for money available. Director Sullivan stated that he would reach out to Brian Lanoue again to update him on the needs of a bond for the payments on the loan until the final payment in March 2025. He stated that we don't want to default on this loan.

AGENDA #10 ADDRESS PUBLIC CONCERNS:

Director Sullivan stated that there were none at the time of preparing the agenda.

AGENDA #11 OTHER BUSINESS:

Director Sullivan informed the Commissioners that the power outage/brown out experienced on September 10th and 11th was due to an Eversource failure, which caused two fuses and holders to explode near the Water Street Substation. Director Sullivan stated that on Monday it was decided to deenergize the Water Street Substation and energize the Wilson Street Substation. He stated that he has called in Joe Cristino to inspect and recommend the needed repairs.

Director Sullivan informed the Commissioners about the furnace at 9 East Main Street going off during the power outage on Sunday, September 10th, but the oil continued to fill the furnace. He stated that when the power went back on the oil ignited and caused a fire inside it and sent black smoke up the chimney. It was noticed by Chairman Demicco and the fire department was called in. A new furnace is needed and our plumber and a chimney specialist are working on the situation. The building is without hot water temporarily as work is being done.



A motion was made by Chairman Demicco to adjourn the Board Meeting at 5:38 pm. Comm. Comfort seconded the motion with both in favor.

Respectfully submitted by,



Debra L. Bingell
Secretary to the Board